

REMARKS

The priority claim has been amended to claim continuation-in-part status of commonly owned copending U.S. Application Serial No. 08/933,566, now U.S. Patent No. 6,083,260 (the '260 Patent). Walid N. Aboul-Hosn is an inventor common to the '260 Patent and the instant application.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 12-16 have been canceled.

New claim 17 is presented for prosecution.

Claims 1, 6, 8-11 and 17 remain pending in the application.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Aboul-Hosn U.S. 6,083,260. Applicant's claim of priority to the '260 Patent eliminates the '260 Patent as prior art as to the instant application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 1, 6, 8-11 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

By Patricia A. Limbach  
Patricia A. Limbach  
Registration No. 50,295

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.  
Post Office Box 26618  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226  
(262) 783 - 1300  
7 January 2004  
Customer No.: 26308

A-Mel/16586-CIP 2/040107 Amend B

Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal Letter  
Return Postcard